

## **Transportation Committee**

February 13, 2013

### House Bill 6023: AAC the Use of Recycled Asphalt Roofing Shingles in Road Paving Materials

Testimony Submitted by:

John Pizzimenti – Director of Environmental Services  
Murphy Road Recycling, LLC

Senator Maynard, Representative Guerrero, Senator Boucher, Representative Scribner and members of the Transportation Committee, my name is John Pizzimenti and I am the Director of Environmental Services for Murphy Road Recycling, LLC headquartered in Enfield, Connecticut.

I present testimony today in strong support of a proposed bill before your Committee, Proposed House Bill No. 6023, entitled “An Act Concerning the Use of Recycled Asphalt Roofing Shingles in Road Paving Materials.” As elected officials and policymakers, I am confident that you and your colleagues have read much about the need to recycle more of our discarded products because, among other things, it is helpful to the environment, it reduces stress on other resources and it is good for our economy. As important, I think that you would be surprised as to the beneficial re-uses of some of this discarded material.

The focus of the bill before you is to allow the use of recycled asphalt roof shingles in road paving material. Every single one of us is familiar with asphalt roof shingles and for all of us who have had our roofs re-shingled or driven by a house being re-shingled, you are aware that these “old” shingles are placed in a dumpster and, more often than not, are disposed of as construction and demolition debris in out-of-state landfills. Nevertheless, as technology has advanced, we have realized that there is a better use for these discarded shingles and that is to make them a useful component to the manufacture of asphalt or road paving material. The purpose of this bill would be to require that Connecticut require that the paving material manufactured for use in the State consist of a certain small percentage, 5%, of recycled asphalt shingles. Other states have recognized the benefits of this approach and I offer the following points to support this position:

- More than 11 million tons of shingles generated annually
- An estimated 2 million tons recycled
- Most often used as a binder replacement in asphalt production. The same type of oil-based binder used in asphalt is used in shingles
- Environmentally friendly because it reduces need for fossil fuel, saves on landfill space, and provides green jobs in recycling industry
- Economically friendly because on average savings of around \$2 per ton of asphalt has been realized in projects around the country.

• Several state DOTs already have specifications for use of shingles in hot mix used in road projects:

- Florida up to 5% manufacturer's scrap
- Georgia up to 5% manufacturer's scrap
- Indiana up to 5% manufacturer's scrap
- Maryland up to 5% manufacturer's scrap
- Michigan up to 5% manufacturer's scrap
- New Jersey up to 5% manufacturer's scrap
- North Carolina up to 5% manufacturer's scrap
- Ohio "certain percentage of recycled material"
- Pennsylvania up to 5% manufacturer's scrap

In addition, several other states, such as Colorado and California, have either pilot projects or are in the process of establishing specifications for the use of shingles in road projects

The use of recycled asphalt shingles in paving materials is economically feasible, safe, and an environmentally preferential practice. The State of Connecticut should examine this suggestion closely. Among other things, it will aid in the State's efforts to attain its overall recycling objectives by increasing its current recycling rate from 30% to the goal of 58%. In addition, the required use of this material is consistent with the recommendations of the Governor's Recycling Task Force which has been working diligently on these issues over the course of the last year.

Our State would not be the first and it certainly won't be the last to take this innovative and thoughtful approach. This approach offers the benefits of saving money while at the same time encouraging the smart, environmentally friendly re-use of a product that otherwise is land filled. In addition, it would not be done at the expense of quality or safety – as noted, it is being done in other states with climates and conditions similar to Connecticut.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony to the Committee, and I encourage you to move forward with the proposed bill in front of you.